

Application No.: 10/791,325

Docket No.: JCLA12795

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

It is noted with great appreciation that the Office Action considers claims 1-16 as allowed. However, the Office Action has rejected claims 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Worley (US 6,710,376 B2).

In response thereto, Applicants have cancelled claims 18-19 without disclaimer, prejudice or waiver. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1-16 remain pending in the present application, which the Examiner considered as allowable subject matter. Applicants have cancelled the aforementioned claims merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application without conceding that the 102(e) rejection is properly based.

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth hereinbefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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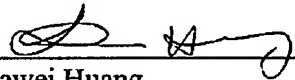
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the presently pending claims 1-16, are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,
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